



OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN
TOWN OF BROOKFIELD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2016

Contact: First Selectman's Office 203-775-7301

RE: FORMER FIRST SELECTMAN'S LETTER TO THE FBI

For the past several days I have received numerous calls from concerned citizens inquiring about "alleged corruption" in Town government. After I was elected to the position of First Selectman, and just before taking office, I was provided with a copy of a letter prior First Selectman William Tinsley sent to the Public Corruption Task Force of the New Haven Regional Office of the FBI. In this letter, Mr. Tinsley reported that "while serving in office as First Selectman, I have observed the difficulty that Brookfield's relatively new Town Controller has faced in reconciling the assets in a number of municipal accounts – pension trust, capital projects, and utility operations to name just the few. The reconciliation difficulty is almost always caught by missing documentation. The problem of missing documentation is so pervasive that it takes on the appearance of planned malfeasance".

After discussing this with the Town's Chief of Police, who was unaware of the letter, he offered to use his contacts at the FBI to have them review this matter. I have spoken with the FBI upon taking office and have come to learn that they do not intend to conduct an FBI investigation into the "missing documentation" to which Mr. Tinsley has referred. I have reported our prior First Selectman's concerns to our local police department and have been advised that the allegations are too general in nature and do not present law enforcement officials with cause to investigate his concerns further at this time. Both the FBI and our local police department have both indicated that if we find any further evidence, they would review it.

Since I took office late last year, I have learned that in several cases retiree pension benefits had been calculated incorrectly and am pleased to report that our Human Resources Manager discovered a number of miscalculations that were made prior to her employment with the Town. She took prompt corrective action to ensure these benefits were properly recalculated and overpayments recouped by the Town. I fully expect that, like any business, we may from time to time discover other mistakes that may have been made in the past but I believe we have the right process in place in our Human Resources Department to discover those mistakes and to ensure that new errors do not reoccur.

As long as I have the good fortune to serve as the Town's First Selectman, I assure the public that my highest priority will be to ensure that the public's resources are used wisely and that the public trust is maintained.

To the extent that anyone has any specific allegations of misallocation of public resources, I urge you to bring such specific concerns to my attention and I assure that they will be promptly investigated and when appropriate corrective action will be undertaken.